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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION PERMITS

A food establishment is any business that prepares, processes, stores, serves or sells food and/ or drink directly to a customer, regardless of whether there is a charge for the food. In Texas, all food establishments must hold a current and valid permit issued by the local regulatory authority. If your business maintains a 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization from the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Harris County Public Health (HCPH), Environmental Public Health Division (EPH), may not charge a permit fee for the food establishment permit.

***NOTE:** The qualification for a no-charge permit does not exempt an establishment from maintaining a current and valid permit, and following all applicable rules and regulations.

In Harris County, all food establishments are required to operate under the guidelines set forth by the Texas Food Establishment Rules and the Rules for the Regulation of Food Establishments in Harris County, Texas, to help prevent foodborne illness and assist businesses in providing safe food to their customers.

To see if your business qualifies for a non-profit permit fee, submit proof of 501(c)(3) status when:

- Submitting the application for a fixed location food establishment, mobile unit, farmers' market, or food sample permit.
- Submitting a temporary event vendor application for a registered temporary event
- Registering a temporary event as the event coordinator

***NOTE:** At a non-profit temporary event, each temporary event booth vendor must be a non-profit or donate all proceeds to the non-profit hosting the event to qualify as a non-profit permit holder.

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

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